

**RESOLUTION 12-041  
LOWER BRULE SIOUX TRIBE**

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT HARNEY PEAK NAME CHANGE TO SOMETHING MORE  
APPROPRIATE AND RESPECTFUL**

*WHEREAS, the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe is a federally recognized Indian Tribe organized pursuant to the Indian reorganization Act of 1934; and*

*WHEREAS, as empowered by the Constitution and Bylaws, Article VI, Section 1, (e), the Tribal Council as authorized by law to safeguard and promote the peace, safety, morals, and general welfare of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe and to regulate the conduct of trade and the use and disposition of property upon the reservation provided that any ordinance directly affecting nonmembers of the reservation shall be subject to review by the Secretary of the Interior; and*

*WHEREAS, the Lower Brule Sioux Tribal Council has reviewed the request and reasons why people are advocating to change the name of Harney Peak to something more appropriate and respectful; and*

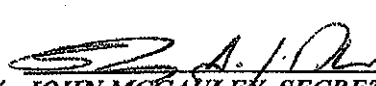
*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Lower Brule Sioux Tribal Council does hereby approve to change the name of Harney Peak.*

**CERTIFICATION**

*The foregoing Resolution as duly adopted by the Lower Brule Sioux Tribal Council, assembled in Regular Session, with quorum present, on the 2nd day of November, 2011 by the affirmative vote of five members for, none opposing, none absent and none not voting.*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**MICHAEL B. JANDREAU, CHAIRMAN  
LOWER BRULE SIOUX TRIBAL COUNCIL**

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**JOHN MCCAULEY, SECRETARY/TREASURER  
LOWER BRULE SIOUX TRIBAL COUNCIL**

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Hansen, June  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 16, 2014 8:44 AM  
**To:** LaPlante, JR; Bertsch, Eileen; Vogt, Jay; Nadenicek, Joe  
**Cc:** Westover, Kerry; Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Fw: Fwd: Rename Harney Peak

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

FYI

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**From:** BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC [mailto:[bgnexec@usgs.gov](mailto:bgnexec@usgs.gov)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 16, 2014 08:10 AM Central Standard Time  
**To:** Louis Yost <[lyost@usgs.gov](mailto:lyost@usgs.gov)>; Hansen, June; Kanalley, Betsy -FS <[bkanalley@fs.fed.us](mailto:bkanalley@fs.fed.us)>; Wilson, Janice E -FS <[janicewilson@fs.fed.us](mailto:janicewilson@fs.fed.us)>; Matthew O'Donnell <[mjodonnell@usgs.gov](mailto:mjodonnell@usgs.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Rename Harney Peak

A satisfied customer. I thanked him and said we'd note his support in the case file.

Jenny

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** David Martin <[damartin33@gmail.com](mailto:damartin33@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Thu, Oct 16, 2014 at 7:29 AM  
**Subject:** Re: Rename Harney Peak  
**To:** "BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC" <[bgnexec@usgs.gov](mailto:bgnexec@usgs.gov)>

Dear Ms. Runyon,

I was really surprised to get a response back from you. It is so thorough and detailed, I really appreciate all your work. I should have explained myself better, I am just an interested citizen who would like the Native Americans to get some well deserved recognition. I had read that Mr. Brave Heart had not put his request into the proper Office, so I just wanted to bring it to your attention and show my support for his and I'm sure most Native Americans desire to change Harney Peak's name to Black Elk Peak, a highly respected Oglala Lakota. I did not know there was a South Dakota Board on Geographic Names or I would have contacted them. But I can not tell you how much I appreciate your in depth reply.

Thank you very much,  
David Martin

On Wed, Oct 15, 2014 at 4:35 PM, BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <[bgnexec@usgs.gov](mailto:bgnexec@usgs.gov)> wrote:

Dear Mr. Martin,

Thank you for contacting the U.S. Board on Geographic Names regarding this name change request. Our apologies for not responding sooner.

The U.S. Board is responsible by law for standardizing geographic names for use by the Federal government, and its members must approve any new name or name change before it can appear on Federal maps and other documents. The Board will be pleased to accept the proposed change for consideration.

Typically, we would ask that you or Mr. Brave Heart complete the Board's proposal form, either online at <http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/index.html>, or via a paper copy, which we can mail, email, or fax to you.

However, we have learned that the South Dakota Board on Geographic Names (SD BGN) has already received the same proposal, and so rather than duplicate the effort, we will defer to that organization to research the issue. There is no need to submit a separate proposal to the U.S. Board.

As part of its investigation, the SD BGN will solicit County, State, and Tribal opinions before submitting a formal recommendation to the U.S. Board. At that point, and after our own research is complete, we will present the proposal to the U.S. Board members for discussion and a final decision.

In order to be ready to process the proposal once we receive the SD BGN's recommendation, we will prepare a case brief for the proposed change. Any information submitted by the SD BGN will be incorporated into the U.S. Board's case file.

By a copy of this email, we are also sharing the request with the U.S. Forest Service, which manages the Black Hills National Forest, where the peak is located. The USFS will solicit local and regional input and presumably share that with the SD BGN.

The SDBGN is copied on this reply, so if you wish to provide any additional details to support the proposed change, please feel free to respond to all.

In summary, the U.S. Board will work closely with its State, Federal, and Tribal partners to determine whether there is a compelling reason to change a name in longstanding use, and if so, whether the name Black Elk Peak should be approved as the replacement name.

The entire review process is expected to take several months, but as soon as the U.S. Board's decision is rendered, we will notify you in writing of the outcome.

Thank you for your interest in the geographic names of South Dakota. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely yours,  
Jennifer Runyon, research staff  
For Lou Yost, Executive Secretary  
U.S. Board on Geographic Names  
U.S. Geological Survey, Geographic Names Office  
523 National Center  
Reston, VA 20192-0523

Phone/fax: (703) 648-4550 / (703) 648-4549

jrnyon@usgs.gov

http://geonames.usgs.gov

On Sun, Oct 5, 2014 at 5:11 PM, David Martin <damartin33@gmail.com> wrote:  
Please consider this geographic name change request:

Basil Brave Heart, who is from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and describes himself as an Oglala Lakota elder, wants the name Harney Peak changed to Black Elk Peak.

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Thank You,  
David Martin

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Thank You,  
David Martin

**Black Elk Development**  
PO Box 332, Porcupine, SD 57772

November 18, 2014

Steve Emery, SD Secretary of Tribal Relations  
500 E. Capitol Ave  
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Secretary Emery:


First, I welcome and congratulate you as the Secretary of Tribal Relations!

I am writing to inform you of an important proposal in the Black Hills of South Dakota introduced by respected elder and leader, Mr. Basil Brave Heart, through and supported by affiliates of Black Elk Development.

Mr. Brave Heart has initiated and proposes to change the name of Harney Peak. The name suggested by tribal members to replace it is *Black Elk Peak*. Please find enclosed a document by Mr. Brave Heart, explaining in detail the purpose, intent and significance of this effort (written at the time to JR LaPlante). Also attached is a letter from Paul S. Soderman, direct descendant of General Harney, who supports the name change.

Mr. Brave Heart and supporters respectfully request a response from you stating your support in regard to this proposal.

Sincerely,



Laurette Poirier  
Advocate/Assistant

Attachments: 1.) Basil Brave Heart Letter 2.) Soderman Letter  
cc: Senator John Thune, Senator Tim Johnson, Representative Noem, Senator Elect Mike Rounds, SD Governor Dugaard, Bishop Robert Gruss, Myron Poirier, Basil Brave Heart

\* You may show your support by visiting [www.blackelkdevelopment.com](http://www.blackelkdevelopment.com)

RECEIVED  
DEC 08 2014

Black Elk Development  
PO Box 387, Poncha, SD 57171

Mr. [Name] [Address]

Steve [Name], SD Secretary of Tribal Relations  
300 E. Capitol Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Secretary [Name]:

Thank you for your letter of [Date] regarding the [Topic].

I am writing to inform you of the [Topic] in the [Location] of [State] introduced by [Name] and [Name]. The [Topic] is [Description] and is supported by [Name] of [Organization].

The [Topic] is [Description] and is supported by [Name] of [Organization]. The [Topic] is [Description] and is supported by [Name] of [Organization]. The [Topic] is [Description] and is supported by [Name] of [Organization].

We [Name] and [Name] respectfully request a response from you at the earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,

[Signature]  
[Name]  
[Title]

Attachments: 1) [Name] [Address] [City] [State] [Zip]  
2) [Name] [Address] [City] [State] [Zip]  
3) [Name] [Address] [City] [State] [Zip]

If you may show your support by [Action]

RECEIVED  
DEC 08 2004

To: Secretary Leroy "JR" LaPlante The Department of Tribal Relations 302 East Dakota Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Secretary LaPlante: I write to make you aware that one of South Dakota's mountains is named after Col. William S. Harney, who knowingly commanded the slaughter of Native American women and children. I invite you to consider, for a moment, some of Thomas Jefferson's language from our treasured Declaration of Independence: "He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions." Is it not ironic then that we have memorialized a military commander who violated standards of basic decency that were apparent 80 years earlier? Something so precious as a mountain deserves better. Our country deserves better.

I am Basil Brave Heart, born into the Oglala Nation of Lakota and reside in Pine Ridge, South Dakota, have served in the U.S. Army 187 RCT Korea 1951-1953 U.S. Paratrooper. I come to you as a Combat Veteran who has served his country, and as an Elder of the Oglala Lakota Nation in the Pine Ridge Reservation with a heart felt request on behalf of the Oglala Nation.

The Battle of Blue Water Creek has been well documented in American history: on September 3, 1855, the U.S. Army, as commanded by Col. William S. Harney, attacked and destroyed a Lakota village located three miles north on Blue Creek.

Accounts from Lieutenants under Col. Harney's command tell us how, at 2:00 a.m., they used their long range rifles "to cut down the women and children as they tried to escape." We now know the location of the caves and rock overhangs in the northeast side of the valley where the women took their children to hide from the battle. And in our hearts can feel their anguish as they were found there by the soldiers and were executed by orders given to them by Col. Harney. We know that over a year later more bodies were found on and around that site including the bodies of two female children who were found clinging together in the water nearly two miles from the original camp site.

Today we would see this event for what it is: a massacre that violated basic standards of decency. Even then, it violated the U.S. Military's Rules of Engagement, whereby Col. Harney and Chief Little Thunder had agreed in ostensible good faith that no harm would come to those camped on the Blue Creek that fateful night in 1855. Now we have the MC 362/1 NATO Rules of Engagement to protect those living in the United States from such unspeakable crimes and violence. All civilized societies today respect and protect the lives of innocent women and children in war. Those who do not are rightly referred to as terrorists.

This massacre stands out among others because those who are not aware of its true origins, sees this sacred place as a monument given to honor Col. Harney and as such serves as a constant reminder of this great tragedy.

And so we come to you in good faith with our request and beseech you to help heal this one very deep and profound wound among all Oglala and Brule Lakota Americans.

We ask that the site known today as "Harney Peak" be reclaimed by the Indigenous peoples and upon your authority it shall be renamed "Black Elk Peak".

We feel that this small action, facilitated by those with the authority to carry it out, will help bring about a profound sense of healing and of justice to the peoples of the Black Hills and those who respectfully uphold the sacredness therein.

Respectfully Submitted,

Basil Brave Heart 101 Brave Heart Way, Mile Marker 97 HWY 18, North of Pine Ridge, SD 57770 P.O. Box 83 White Clay, NB 69365 (605) 867-5985

The following accounts are lifted from the chronicles of many historians who have researched to reveal the true accounts of the Massacre of Blue Water Creek. The intention of this document is to support the letter of appeal to change the name of Mount Harney which was addressed to selected government officials and to the Chairman of South Dakota State Department of Tribal Nation. Many of the citations are from copyrighted documents some with explicit permission of the author. However, since the intention of this document is for individuals to serve as a reference, we hereby exercise the permission of the excerpts from them which may be printed, downloaded, and/or emailed for the purpose of educating those who do not know of this event.

Webster's dictionary defines the word *massacre*, when used as a noun as "the act or an instance of killing a number of usually helpless or unresisting human beings under circumstances of atrocity or cruelty" and when used as a verb, the word is defined as "to violently kill (a group of people); to easily defeat (someone or something)".

Indeed, by Webster's definition, what happened at Blue Water Creek on September 3, 1855 is correctly termed as a *massacre*. What's more, there is compelling evidence that Harney was out for vengeance and actively sought out to kill these Oglala and Brule Lakota.

foliage. As she stepped when she stepped into the beautiful Blue Water Creek, Lydia grieving the dead who's bodies were found in the caves over a year later. Her heart cried as she recalled the bodies of two little girls who were found clinging to one another in water two miles from the original camp site. She wondered if the body count included the babies whose mothers tried to protect with their own bodies. "...did they count those who were mortally wounded and died from their wounds at a later day?"

In respect to Little Thunder and Spotted Tail who fought to protect the women and children she writes:

*"They were influential, prominent and established formidable warriors, both were powerful physically, handsome and stood well over 6 ft tall. They were both seriously wounded by gunshot and saber that day at Blue Water but survived. [...]"*

Little Thunder died about 30 years later but will never be forgotten for his leadership, wisdom, bravery, and attempts to save his people. It is important for all of us Sicangu to acknowledge and honor this great leader. Spotted Tail was the last true Chief of the Sicangu Oyate. He never forgot the death of his relatives at Blue Water and tried to establish ways to save his people. [...] I attended a Bilingual Conference several years ago and met a Nakota elder from Canada who told me his grandfather told him of Spotted Tail coming to Carlyle and talking to the students. [...] he was a great leader who used his intelligence and diplomacy to save his people. He knew the importance of education. He knew the Lakota were strong people and that they had always adapted and survived the challenges that faced them. Most important is to know that we as descendants of Blue Water Creek massacre have a proud history and know that the last true Chief of the Sicangu Oyate was Spotted Tail.

Ell Paul, notable author and historian, first visited the battlefield along Blue Water Creek in 1977. His book (Blue Water Creek and the First Sioux War, 1854-56) gives accounts by participants of both the Grattan and Blue Water Creek Massacres. "A goal of this book," Paul writes in the preface, "has been to find and use new sources of Lakota history, as well as to distill old accounts, in order to tell this story thoroughly, concisely, and fairly." This brilliantly researched book incorporates statements from Man Afraid of His Horses, who tried to reason with Grattan; Big Partisan, who saw his friend Conquering Bear die; and Little Thunder himself.

In his book, Mr. Paul points out a very sobering fact regarding military tactics in the era of American Indian history:

*"The longer term significance of the First Sioux War is that, no matter the commander, his personality, or the decade, the destruction of Indian villages continued to prove an effective military tactic. It remained the goal and the practice, not the exception, even after the Lakota nation was broken."*

While it is important that we find ways to heal, it is also equally important that we not forget the events which shaped the landscape of our culture(s) and shared history. There can not be healing without a certain amount of justice.

We do not want to attach the name of a recognized War Criminal on a place so sacred it is considered to be the center of the universe for the Lakota people.

It has often been said of the Jewish Holocaust that we should never forget the horrific price paid by the Jewish people. No one would dare to argue the tragic circumstances in the outrageous and heinous crimes. It's shocking to find there are people in today's world who believe the Holocaust never happened. Once the survivors have all died, and if we dare to forget these tragic accounts of gas chambers and torture and prejudice against the Jews, then we teeter dangerously upon another era who may repeat these horrors again.

So would it be a surprise to anyone reading this document that Adolf Hitler studied the history of the United States and the war it waged against its Indigenous People of America to form his plans for the genocide of the Jewish people? Pulitzer Prize-winning author, John Toland, notes in his book *Adolf Hitler* (pg. 202)

*Hitler's concept of concentration camps as well as the practicality of genocide owed much, so he claimed, to his studies of English and United States history. He admired the camps for Boer prisoners in South Africa and for the Indians in the wild west; and often praised to his inner circle the efficiency of America's extermination—by starvation and uneven combat—of the red savages who could not be tamed by captivity.*

*He was very interested in the way the Indian population had rapidly declined due to epidemics and starvation when the United States government forced them to live on the reservations. He thought the American government's forced migrations of the Indians over great distances to barren reservation land was a deliberate policy of extermination. Just how much Hitler took from the American example of the destruction of the Indian nations is hard to say; however, frightening parallels can be drawn. For some time Hitler considered deporting the Jews to a large 'reservation' in the Lublin area where their numbers would be reduced through starvation and disease.*

Hitler was quick to point out how it was due to the lack of public awareness of the American Genocide which influenced his choices.

Are we doomed to repeat this travesty against our Indigenous People of America in future generations? The truth is that we never fully stopped for how many how remember 'The Long Walk' of the Navajos, or 'The Trail of Tears' of the Cherokee except by their name references? We are taught from Kindergarten our American Forefathers and we so deeply respect the men and women of our Military for the sacrifices they and their



families have made to keep America free. We keep these things in our hearts and prayers so those who gallantly fought and lost their lives will not have died in vain.

So please do not forget these brave men and women of the Indigenous People of America who also fought and died for their rights which the U.S. Government still represses. Do not forget the little children and innocents who lost their lives in the crossfire of wars for which they did not play any part.

The elders of long ago: Crazy Horse, Wovoka, Chief Joseph, Sitting Bull, Black Elk, Little Thunder, Spotted Tail, No Ears, American Horse, Chief Gali, Red Cloud, Rain in the Face... the wisdom they imparted to us all is just now being realized.

It is a debt we owe to them to do what we can to preserve their honor and to exonerate the name of Harney from the sacred mountain.

**"The first peace, which is the most important, is that which comes within the souls of people when they realize their relationship, their oneness, with the universe and all its powers, and when they realize that at the center of the universe dwells Wakan-Tanka, [Great Mystery] and that this center is really everywhere, it is within each of us. This is the real peace, and the others are but reflections of this. The second peace is that which is made between two individuals, and the third is that which is made between two nations. But above all you should understand that there can never be peace between nations until there is known that true peace, which, as I have often said, is within the souls of men." Black Elk - 1953**

## 1. References:

1 "Massacre." Merriam-Webster. Merriam-Webster, n.d. Web. 10 Aug. 2014. <<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/massacre>>.

2 "South Dakota Heritage Fund." South Dakota History. South Dakota Historical Society, May 2013. Web. 08 Aug. 2014. <[http://www.sdhsf.org/news\\_events/monthly\\_history\\_article.html/title/may-2013-william-s-harney](http://www.sdhsf.org/news_events/monthly_history_article.html/title/may-2013-william-s-harney)>.

3 Dunn, Jacob P. "Ash Hollow and the Cheyenne Expedition." *Massacres of the Mountains: A History of the Indian Wars of the Far West Volume I*. Vol. 1. New York, N.Y.: Harper & Brothers, 1886. 219-43. Print.

4 Whirlwind-Soldier, Lydia. "Lakota Country Times | [www.lakotacountrytimes.com](http://www.lakotacountrytimes.com) | Lakota Country Times." *Lakota Country Times* | [www.lakotacountrytimes.com](http://www.lakotacountrytimes.com) | Lakota Country Times. Lakota Country Times, 1999. Web. 08 Aug. 2014. <<http://www.lakotacountrytimes.com/common/pastarchives/755.html?print=1>>.

5 Turchen, Lesta V. "The Dakota Explorations of Lieutenant Gouverneur Kemble Warren, 1855-1856-1857." *Exploring The Black Hills, 1855-1875: Reports of the Government Expeditions*. By James D. McLaird. Vol. 3. N.p.: E South Dakota State Historical Society, 1973. N. pag. Print.

6 Paul, Eli. *Blue Water Creek and the First Sioux War, 1854-56*. N.p.: U of Oklahoma, 2004. Print.

7 Toland, John. *Adolf Hitler*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1976. Print.

SECRET

1. The first of these is the fact that the Commission has not yet received any information from the Government of the Republic of the Congo regarding the situation in the country.

[illegible]

*Journal of Management Inquiry* 18(6)

[illegible]

1. I would like the board to consider the possibility of establishing a fund to support the research and development of new and innovative products and services. This fund could be used to provide financial support for research and development projects that are deemed to be of high potential and to have a significant impact on the company's future growth and profitability.

1. The Commission has received information from the public that the Commission's decision to grant the license to the applicant was based on the applicant's representation that it had the necessary financial resources to carry out the project. The Commission has reviewed the applicant's financial statements and has found that the applicant's representation was not supported by the evidence. The Commission has therefore decided to revoke the license.

In summary, the purpose of this report is to provide a comprehensive overview of the current state of the art in the field of artificial intelligence, with a focus on the development of intelligent systems that can learn from data and make decisions based on that information. The report is organized into several sections, each of which discusses a different aspect of the field. The first section discusses the history of artificial intelligence, from its early beginnings in the 1950s to the present day. The second section discusses the various approaches to artificial intelligence, including symbolic AI, connectionist AI, and hybrid AI. The third section discusses the applications of artificial intelligence, from its use in industry to its use in healthcare and education. The fourth section discusses the challenges of artificial intelligence, including the need for large amounts of data, the need for powerful computing resources, and the need for effective algorithms. Finally, the fifth section discusses the future of artificial intelligence, including the potential for artificial general intelligence and the need for responsible AI development.

2019-2020 Annual Report

*[Handwritten signature]*

[illegible]

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Laura Carlson <songlore@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 17, 2014 11:40 AM  
**To:** Westover, Kerry  
**Subject:** Black Elk Peak

To whom it may concern,

My husband and I support the Black Elk family, Basil BraveHeart, and the Lakota People in changing the name of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak. We know how dear and sacred this mountain is and has always been to the people. We are aware of the terrible things that happened to their ancestors at the hands of people like William S. Harney. It is time to acknowledge the history of the tribal peoples and make appropriate changes to reflect the truth...Sincerely, Laura and Buck Carlson

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Sue Nash <augsburnsue@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 17, 2014 10:50 PM  
**To:** Westover, Kerry  
**Subject:** Black Elk Peak

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Mr. Westover,

I am writing in support of the renaming of the sacred mountain are currently called Harney's Peak to be named in honor of the people whom Harney worked so hard at destroying. Having visited and climbed Harney's Peak several times during the past few years, I know what a beautiful and sacred place it is. It saddens me to think that we are honoring a military man who's life was committed to destroying the Lakota people. I am a white woman, a mother, a grandmother. Please review Harney's war record and acts against humanity and reconsider having this special place renamed. Thank you.

Susan K Nash  
nash@augsburn.edu  
Professor Emeritus  
507-250-2282

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Roseanne Rivers <roseannemarierivers@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 19, 2014 11:07 PM  
**To:** Westover, Kerry  
**Subject:** Black Elk Peak

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

I am writing in support of changing Harney peak to black elk peak.

This is something that should have been done long ago to honor a local native elder & not a murderer.

Thank you,

Roseanne Rivers

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** RITA GUILD Owner <rguild@centurylink.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 20, 2014 12:04 AM  
**To:** Westover, Kerry  
**Subject:** Changing Name of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I am writing to lend my support to renaming Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak.. In the sacred Black Hill Mountains it is so important that these beautiful edifices be named in harmony with the people who hold them so sacred. To have a peak named after someone who killed innocent Native women and children is an affront that is so unnecessary and impairs healing. This name change would be supportive of a continued need to right injustices that have been placed upon the Native peoples.

I ask for your sincere consideration regarding this request.

Thank you.

Rita Guild

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** John Merritt <jmerri@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2014 8:42 PM  
**To:** Westover, Kerry  
**Subject:** Expression of support for changing the name of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

I am writing you to express my support for changing the name of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak. As you are aware, this initiative is led by Basil Brave Heart of Pine Ridge, SD.

I was extremely troubled when I learned about Colonel Harney's role in the Blue Water Creek Massacre in September 1855, and other actions he took while serving in the U.S. Army. As a frequent visitor to South Dakota I find it highly offensive that this peak, located in the heart of one of the most beautiful state parks I have ever visited, should continue to be named after such an individual.

The fact that this peak was known to the Lakota as *Hinhan Kaga Paha* and played an important role in their spirituality, and that it is also the location where the Lakota holy man Black Elk received his vision, makes the current name even more offensive.

It is time that the South Dakota state government do the right thing and change the name to Black Elk Peak. In the face of all the injustices that have been done to the Lakota people throughout this country's history, this is a small but important step that the state can make to help right past wrongs, promote better understanding of the state's history, and improve relations with its Native American inhabitants.

This name change is really a very small thing to ask, but the symbolic significance is tremendous to the Lakota people. It is also extremely important to visitors to South Dakota like me. In fact, should the name not be changed to Black Elk Peak I would have to wonder why a state that is so eager to attract my tourism dollars would be unwilling to do what is clearly -- clearly -- the right thing in this situation.

Why would I want to spend money in a state like that?

Sincerely,

John Merritt  
4929 Mayview Road  
Minnetonka, MN 55345  
952-836-8158

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Erb, Mike <MErb@Hazelden.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 17, 2014 12:59 PM  
**To:** Westover, Kerry  
**Cc:** 'Mark Clements'; Dean Erb (deanerb1940@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Harney Peak

I am writing to you in support of a proposal to rename Harney Peak in Pennington County to Black Elk Peak. The reason for my support is that I believe the current name is not reflective of the values espoused by the State of South Dakota or the United States of America. Specifically, actions taken by General Harney and those under his command against defenseless Native American people were essentially war crimes and would be considered as such under current military rules of engagement. And I do not believe that South Dakota or the United States support or condone war crimes in any form.

Continuing to name a landmark in honor of such an individual represents at least tacit approval of his actions. And while I do not believe that is intended by any current residents of South Dakota or by any governing authorities therein, the name continues to be a reminder of the atrocities committed to the descendants of the victims of General Harney, to all Native peoples and to those who care about their history and current struggles.

As you are aware, the wilderness area within which Harney Peak is contained is already named the Black Elk Wilderness Area, and it would seem that changing the name of the peak would be consistent with an acknowledgement that has already been made.

I am not Native American, nor even a resident of South Dakota. I am, however, a citizen who has chosen to take an interest in Native history and current issues, and I have personal friends who are Native, including many from the Pine Ridge reservation. As an American and human being, I am asking you to support this request as it will assist with continued healing that is taking place both within Native communities and between the larger cultures in South Dakota, the United States and the world as a whole.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

**Mike Erb**  
2310 Woodland Trail  
Cumberland, WI 54829



**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Andy Watts <andy.watts@belmont.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 17, 2014 2:09 PM  
**To:** Westover, Kerry  
**Subject:** Harney Peak

Dear Mr. Westover  
South Dakota Board of Graphic Names  
Department of Tribal Relations  
302 E. Dakota  
Pierre, SD 57501,

I would like to file an amicus request on behalf of Basil Braveheart, who is petitioning for a name change of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak in the Black Hills. History reveals that this name is one infamous to the Lakota and to the idea of the sanctity of human rights. Please consider this name change as a positive step towards bringing reality in line with history, so that the next time I and others sit atop it, we might remember the just character of the government of South Dakota.

Thank you very much for your valuable time.

Sincerely,

Andy Watts  
Associate Professor of Christian Ethics  
Belmont University  
Nashville, Tennessee

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Cj Heckmann <cj.heckmann@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 17, 2014 7:25 PM  
**To:** Westover, Kerry  
**Subject:** Harney Peak

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I am writing in support of the Lakota Aermicans. In the words of Basil Braveheart, " I request and beseech you to help heal the very deep wound among all Oglala and Brule Lakota Americans." I ask that the site known today as "Harney Peak" be reclaimed by the indigenous peoples and upon your authority it shall be renamed "Black Elk Peak."

Thank you!

Carol Heckman

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Scott Highland <highs777@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 18, 2014 5:47 AM  
**To:** Westover, Kerry  
**Subject:** Harney Peak

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I am writing this letter express my belief Harney Peak should be renamed. The atrocities committed by General Harney should not be memorialized by a peak. The healing of a nation takes time, energy and money but is necessary if we are to move forward. The renaming of this peak in Native American spiritual ground would be a step in that direction.

Scott Highland  
8728 Sheridan Lake Rd  
Rapid City SD 57702  
605-391-5601

**Reiss, David**

---

**From:** Suzanne Schmidt <windwalker@frontiernet.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 18, 2014 8:01 AM  
**To:** Westover, Kerry  
**Subject:** Harney Peak

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I am an American seeking truth and justice.

I have come to realize the 'truths' taught to me in school were not always the complete truth.

This area has been sacred for the Lakota people for generation after generation reaching back centuries into the past. The blood of the Lakota has not been honored. Changing the name from Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak would be a way of healing and honoring these deep wounds still carried by the Lakota people.

I am a white woman with no tribal affiliation and am appealing your your sense of justice to bring this action forward. Please help the Lakota people In this sacred endeavor.

Respectfully,  
Suzanne Schmidt

Sent by iPhone

**Reiss, David**

---

**From:** clmeyer11@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Friday, September 19, 2014 8:21 AM  
**To:** Westover, Kerry  
**Subject:** Harney Peak

I am sending this email in support of the request of Basil Brave Heart to change the name of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak in order to bring healing and justice to the Oglala Nation of Lakota.

Connie L. Meyer  
St. Paul, MN

Sent from my iPad

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Susan Anderson <acc5@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 29, 2014 2:52 PM  
**To:** Westover, Kerry  
**Subject:** Harney Peak

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Kerry Westover,

I respectfully urge the renaming of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak! It would be a wonderful act of compassion and respect!

Warm Regards,

Susan McNaughton Anderson

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Julie Kilpatrick <jkilpatrick@me.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 19, 2014 9:12 PM  
**To:** Westover, Kerry  
**Subject:** Harney Peak name change

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

This is a letter of support for consideration of a name change for Harney Peak. We are allies with many Lakota people. We and many Lakota people feel that a name change to Black Elk peak would bring some healing and justice to the Lakota people.

Harney was not a peacemaker and Black Elk was a peacemaker.

Thank you for this consideration.

Julie Kilpatrick and  
Andrew Jenks  
1209 2nd St N  
Stillwater MN 55082  
651-285-4251

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** John Zimms <john.zimms@lpl.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2014 8:59 AM  
**To:** Westover, Kerry  
**Subject:** Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Dear Mr. Westover

It is time to help heal a wound and rename Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak. As you no doubt know Colonel Harney massacred Chief Little Thunder's band at Blue Water Creek. Every time native people go by this peak the memory of this injustice comes back. Black Elk has always believed in the principal "mitakuye oyasin" we are all related. Harmony with all living things. A meeting with Paul Sodderman, Colonel Harney's great, great, great grandson is going to go on in Fort Laramie, WY. with Basil Brave Heart and a number of other elders from Pine Ridge to smoke the pipe. South Dakota could symbolically do so much more than "smoke the pipe" by renaming Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak. Please allow this healing to progress.

Thank You for reading.

Toksa

John & Susan Zimms



## Reiss, David

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**From:** Barbara Schindeldecker <barbarayoung711@live.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 18, 2014 6:49 PM  
**To:** Westover, Kerry  
**Subject:** I brought my granddaughter (11) to the Black Hills in August.

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

I have always talk her the truth as I understand it... She needed to see this beautiful area with many of the attractions, as I had brought her mother here as a girl. It is important that she know that all places named are not for honourable reasons. Renaming Harney Peak is a beginning. After all Denali had a different name when I grew up. Please consider this, it has meaning for many.

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Mike Levy <mlevyhaiti@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 24, 2014 10:05 AM  
**To:** Westover, Kerry  
**Subject:** I support the proposed re-naming of Harney Peak to "Black Elk Peak"

To: Kerry Westover  
South Dakota Board on Geographic Names  
Department of Tribal Relations  
302 East Dakota  
Pierre, SD 57501

From: Michael Levy  
293 280th Street  
Osceola, WI 54020  
Date: September 24, 2014  
Re: Support for re-naming of Harney Peak to "Black Elk Peak"

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Dear Kerry Westover,

I am honored to join many other readers of history and friends of the people of South Dakota in supporting the important current initiative seeking to re-name Harney Peak to "Black Elk Peak". I strongly feel this name change would be a positive step in enhancing appreciation and understanding of the complex and tragic history of the area, as well as honoring an outstanding and exemplary figure in U.S. and Native American history, Black Elk.

The tragic consequences of the Blue Water Creek Massacre as described in important scholarly works now more widely known to the general public cannot be changed. However our assertion of the historic American values of human rights, respect, equality and dignity would be enhanced through this proposed name change, and the rights and history of the indigenous Native populations will become better understood by current and future generations.

I greatly appreciate South Dakota's natural and human treasures and express my support in this context.

Thank you for your attention.

Very truly yours,

Michael Levy  
Osceola, Wisconsin



## JOHN G. NEIHARDT HISTORIC SITE

P.O. BOX 344 • PHONE 402-648-3388 • BANCROFT, NEBRASKA 68004

March 4, 2015

RECEIVED  
MAR 11 2015

Senator John Thune  
United States Senate SD-511  
Washington, DC 20510

Jay Vogt, Director  
South Dakota State Historical Society  
900 Governors Dr.  
Pierre, SD 57501

Governor Dennis Daugaard  
Office of the Governor  
500 E. Capitol Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501

Steve Emery, Secretary  
Department of Tribal Relations  
302 East Dakota  
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: Support for the Renaming of "Harney Peak" to "Black Elk Peak"

Dear Senator Thune, Governor Daugaard, Mr. Vogt, and Mr. Emery:

On behalf of the Board of Directors at the John G. Neihardt Foundation, I write in strong support for the renaming of South Dakota's tallest mountain "Harney Peak" to "Black Elk Peak" as a way to commemorate the memory of the Oglala Lakota holy man known as Black Elk and to rectify the misguided decree, which resulted in naming the structure in honor of a man who committed previous crimes against Native American people. We hope that you will lend your strong support to the movement to rename this sacred place in a way that will honor the Lakota people by memorializing an important figure in Lakota and American history.

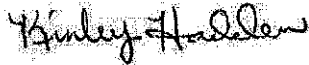
Army lieutenant Gouveneur K. Warren named the peak after General William S. Harney while Warren was on a surveying expedition in 1857. Our grievance against naming this prominent location after Harney is due to his well-documented involvement in the 1855 Battle of Ash Hollow, also known as the Battle of Blue Water Creek, in present-day Nebraska during the First Sioux War. Under Harney's command, a force of 600 soldiers attacked 250 Lakota. Eighty-six died as a result of this massacre, including women and children.

At 7,242 ft., the peak is the highest point east of the Rocky Mountains in the United States and has been a popular hiking destination in the Black Hills. Like many, we feel that renaming this well-known site would be a just and noble way to rectify a great wrong and that failing to take such an action would be a continued offense to the memory of those who died at the Battle of Ash Hollow and to those who visit the Black Hills and this peak. In addition, we believe Black Elk, a Lakota spiritual leader who reported having a vision on the peak in the 1870s, to be a fitting change, since the peak resides within a federally designated wilderness called the Black Elk Wilderness.

The Neihardt Foundation manages the John G. Neihardt State Historic Site, a branch museum of the Nebraska State Historical Society, in Bancroft, Nebraska. Our mission is to preserve the heritage of the Great Plains, and its great voices, those of pioneer and Native American; and to inspire all people to lead lives of strong moral conviction and purpose in light of their noble heritages. John Neihardt was a

sympathetic to the harsh realities of reservation life for many Native Americans and wrote with great esteem about the traditions and culture of various Great Plains tribes. To honor John Neihardt and Black Elk, and the culture and history of Native Americans, the Neihardt Foundation Board hopes to lend credence and support to this movement. Following the recommendation of Jay Vogt, a member of the board and the director of the South Dakota State Historical Society, we wish to formally appeal to you to change the name of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak and encourage the South Dakota State Historical Society Board to make a similar recommendation to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names for a final determination.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kinley Hadden".

Kinley Hadden  
Executive Director  
Neihardt State Historic Site  
Neihardt Center for Vision and Learning

JOHN G. NEIHARDT FOUNDATION  
PO BOX 344  
BANCROFT, NE 68004-0344  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

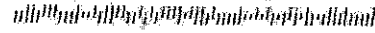
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06 MAR 2015 PM 4 T



Steve Emery, Secretary  
Department of Tribal Relations  
302 East Dakota  
Pierre, SD 57501

5750133139



**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Aplan, Kathy  
**Sent:** Friday, September 19, 2014 4:37 PM  
**To:** Westover, Kerry  
**Cc:** LaPlante, JR  
**Subject:** Log # 140437 Doreen Mundie  
**Attachments:** 140437DoreenMundie.docx

Log # 140437 Doreen Mundie

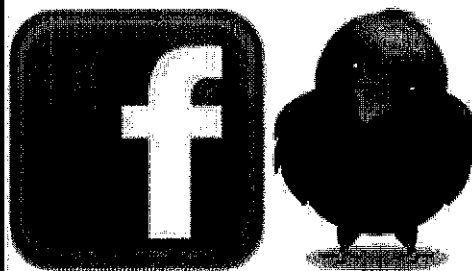
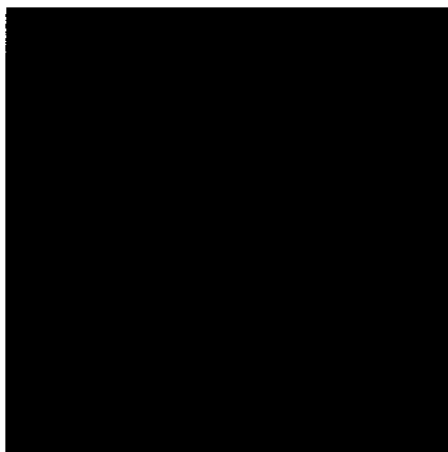
Doreen Mundie called, she said she is the "adopted" daughter of a Lakota elder and she believes that Harney Peak's name should be changed to Black Elk Peak. She believes this is a very important thing for the Lakota people, especially after the churches and government colluded to destroy them. She thinks that this is the right thing to do. Her phone number is 828-863-2944. I let Doreen know that I would forward this on to the SDBGN.

**KATHY APLAN**

**STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
PUBLIC INFORMATION COORDINATOR  
DEPARTMENT OF TRIBAL RELATIONS  
302 E. DAKOTA AVE.  
PIERRE, SD 57501**

**KATHY.APLAN@STATE.SD.US**

**PHONE 605.773.5654  
CELL 605.280.4156  
FAX 605.773.6592**



**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK & TWITTER!**

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Leuning, Cheryl <leuning@augsborg.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 30, 2014 3:22 PM  
**To:** Westover, Kerry  
**Subject:** Naming the highest mountain in the Black Hills Black Elk Peak

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

South Dakota Board of Graphic Names  
Department of Tribal Relations  
302 E. Dakota  
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Mr. Westover and Members of the SD Board of Graphic Names,

I would like to add my support for changing the name of the site known as "Harney Peak" to Black Elk Peak. This will help to bring about a profound sense of healing and justice to the Lakota people who love this land. I grew up in eastern South Dakota and have always loved the prairies and the Black Hills. I have climbed the highest mountain in the Black Hills several times. Lakota people have taught me many lessons about land, forgiveness, and the honor of naming a place after great leaders. Black Elk is one of those leaders that we all can be proud of and therefore I urge those of you who have the authority to "rename" locations to please rename this mountain after this great Lakota elder.

Thank you,

Cheryl Leuning

--

Cheryl Leuning, RN, PhD  
Professor, Department of Nursing  
Augsburg College  
2211 Riverside Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55454  
Phone: 612-330-1214  
FAX: 612-330-1676  
e-mail: [leuning@augsborg.edu](mailto:leuning@augsborg.edu)

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Dr William Kennedy <icorpinc@me.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2014 1:08 PM  
**To:** Westover, Kerry  
**Subject:** Petition to re-name Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Secretary LaPlante:

I am writing to request that "Harney Peak" be renamed "Black Elk Peak" in honour of the indigenous peoples who originally inhabited this land and whose lives were unjustly taken away by Col. William Harney during the Battle of Blue Water Creek.

Col. Harney's order to kill innocent Native American women and children in a Lakota village outside of Blue Creek was a violation of US military rules of engagement and basic human decency. Today, it would also be a violation of the Geneva Conventions to which the United States is a signatory.

In recognition of our country's commitment to human rights, and as a symbolic reparation for the injustice and loss of life suffered by the Lakota people in 1855, I ask for your support in changing the name of this mountain.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to your favorable response.

Sincerely,

Dr William T Kennedy  
69 Grovers Ave  
Winthrop MA 02152



**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Michelle Campanis <michelle.campanis@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 17, 2014 1:35 PM  
**To:** Westover, Kerry  
**Subject:** Proposed Name Change for Harney Peak  
**Attachments:** Name Change Harney Peak.rtf

I am writing to ask for your support of the attached proposal by Basil Braveheart to change the name of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak. This is a wonderful opportunity for the State of South Dakota to take the lead in offering healing gestures to all Native American people in our nation. We are not able to change the past, but neither should we continue to honor men whose past actions do not bring honor to our present or future.

Sincerely yours,  
Michelle Bradley Campanis

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Rebecca Derenne <rderenne@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 19, 2014 12:54 AM  
**To:** Westover, Kerry  
**Subject:** re: proposed name change

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

One of South Dakota's mountains is named after Col. Harney, who willingly commanded the slaughter of Native American women and children. I support the proposed name change of this site, from Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Derenne

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Patricia Hauser <phauser@mchsi.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2014 4:53 PM  
**To:** Westover, Kerry  
**Subject:** Rename Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak

Kerry Westover, Executive Assistant  
Wouth Dakota Dept. of Tribal Relations  
302 E. Dakota Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Kerry Westover,

I support the renaming of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak. To rename this peak "Black Elk Peak" would be the respectful thing to do, not just for the Lakota Nation but for all native people in North America. It's the right thing to do. Thanks for your consideration. Please send this on to all appropriate officials who are considering this matter.

Sincerely,

Patricia J. Hauser  
5805 Minnetonka Dr.  
Shorewood, MN 55331

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Mark Clements <clem744@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 30, 2014 8:21 AM  
**To:** Westover, Kerry  
**Subject:** Renaming Harney Peak - Sent on Behalf of Basil Brave Heart  
**Attachments:** SD Board Letter RE Harney Peak.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Mr. Westover,

Basil Brave Heart asked me to send this letter regarding the renaming of Harney Peak to you. Please contact Basil Brave Heart for any additional information, or reply to me if you have any questions and I will see that Basil gets your request/question.

Sincerely,

Mark Clements

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Mark Clements <clem744@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 17, 2014 8:36 PM  
**To:** Westover, Kerry  
**Subject:** Renaming Harney Peak

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

My wife and I are writing you in support of the Lakota People, the Black Elk family and Basil Brave Heart in renaming Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak. Continuing to honor General Harney, who massacred Lakota women and children, is not right. We thank you for your efforts in seeing that this change takes place as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Mark and Maggie Clements

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Alex Calingaert <calingaert@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 21, 2014 12:53 PM  
**To:** Westover, Kerry  
**Subject:** Re-naming Harney Peak

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear M. Westover,

I am writing in support of changing the name of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak.

A ask this for the following reasons:

- 1) It is a simple and low cost good will gesture to the Lakota people and other indigenous nations
- 2) There is evidence that Col. Harney was complicit in war crimes. It is incongruent for a nation that places our moral code so highly to name a location for such a person.

I would appreciate your help in this matter. Please let me know if there is anyone else I should send this request to.

Thank you so much.

Regards,  
Alex Calingaert

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Philicia <tsphilicia@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 18, 2014 11:32 PM  
**To:** Westover, Kerry  
**Subject:** Renaming Harney Peak

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Dear Mr. Westover,**

**Recently I have heard of an initiative that has been put forth by a Lakota elder by the name of Basil Braveheart regarding the changing of the name of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak.**

**What a wonderful idea this is. As a Mohawk I can not help but feel what an amazing gesture this would be not just for the Lakota people but for all the native nations of this land. For generations this peak has carried the name of a man who is well document for having committed horrific genocidal atrocities against the people of the plains. It has been a constant reminder to them of these acts conspicuously glorified at the highest point of their sacred Black Hills. It has been insult to injury for far to long.**

**What better way to heal the wounds of the past that still affect the first peoples of this nation and allow future generations of both natives and non natives to cultivate a mutual respect and understanding of one another. I hope that you will consider in earnest this notion that will be a wonderful example for all of our posterity to follow.**

**Sincerely,**

**Philicia Robles**



To: South Dakota Board on Geographic Names  
State Department of Tribal Relations

I, Paul Stover Soderman am writing to humbly request that the Board respectfully consider changing the name of Harney Peak in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The peak was named in the late 1850s by then Lieutenant Governor K Warren in honor of General William Selby Harney who was commander of the U.S. military in the Black Hills area. Harney was commissioned to lead a punitive expedition in Lakota territory and on Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1855 he ordered the attack on the peaceful village of Little Thunder at Blue Water Creek, Nebraska. Although he reported this 'battle' as a great victory for the US army it was conversely described as a brutal massacre by Lakota survivors and even Harney's own men. Eighty-Six Lakota, many of them women and children were killed. 70 were taken captive and marched to Ft. Laramie, Wy. Crazy Horse was a young boy in that camp and helped the wounded to safety. General Harney was also a primary designer and signer of the still controversial 1868 Ft. Laramie Treaty.

To the Lakota, Harney Peak is and has always been a place of ultimate spiritual significance and deep cultural meaning. The Great Holy Man Black Elk received powerful visions here and today many Lakota youth and elders climb to the summit, every Spring Equinox for the "Welcoming of the Thunders" ceremony. Harney Peak is of course also known by it's own Lakota name(s) as well.

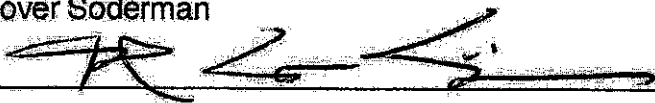
I would ask the board to consider that I make this request, not just as a supporter of basic cultural sensitivity, but as a direct descendant of General William Selby Harney. My Great great great Grandmother was Frances Harney, first cousin to the General. My Great Grandfather was James Harney Stover. I am General Harney's first cousin, 7 generations removed.

I have also been making relations and discussing this possibility with members of the Little Thunder Family who are also in support of changing the name. I do not have an opinion and remain neutral as to what the peak should be renamed and only request that the Harney name to be retired and replaced with a more appropriate choice.

In summary, the purpose of this request is to promote and allow a meaningful healing reconciliation to be realized between my family, the Little Thunder family and the Lakota People. Together we wish to share this healing effort with the next Seven generations to come, and beyond.

Sincerely

Paul Stover Soderman



9/28/2014

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Jeff Dinsmore <j.dinsmore@mchsi.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2014 4:28 PM  
**To:** Westover, Kerry  
**Subject:** Support for Renaming Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Kerry Westover, Executive Assistant

South Dakota Department of Tribal Relations

302 E Dakota Avenue

Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Kerry,

Please forward this message to the all appropriate officials in the Department of Tribal Relations.

I am writing this message to express my full support for the renaming of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak. As someone who travels in South Dakota and spends time with Lakota People, and is familiar with the history, I feel that the current name is abhorrent and an affront to the Lakota People and an embarrassment for the South Dakota and United States Governments. To name this peak "Black Elk Peak" provides honor and respect due for the Lakota People as well as all related native groups.

Sincerely,

Jeff Dinsmore

5805 Minnetonka Dr.

Shorewood, MN 55331

**September 5, 2011**

Lou Yost  
Executive Secretary for Domestic Names  
U.S. Geological Survey  
523 National Center  
Reston, VA 20192-0523

Dear Mr. Yost:

The Lower Brule Cultural Resources Elder Advisory Committee (Mrs. Evelyn Charging, Mrs. Irene Flute, Mr. Virgil Flute, Mrs. Maxine Grassrope, Mrs. Rose McCauley, Mrs. Irene Skunk, Mrs. Julia Yellow Robe, and Mr. Alfred Ziegler) respectfully requests that the U.S. Board on Geographic Names removes the name "Harney Peak" from the place that is the highest point in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

The US government decided to honor U.S. Army General William S. Harney by giving the name Harney Peak to our Lakota holy place, Hinhan Kaga Paha, on May 2, 1906, after approval by the U.S. Board of Geological Names.

In the opinion of the Elder Advisory Committee, and the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, the name "Harney Peak" is inappropriate, degrading and offensive for several reasons:

1. This holy place of the Lakota people — Hinhan Kaga Paha — should not have been renamed after a U.S. Army General who fought against our ancestors;
2. The Lakota people resident in the Black Hills region were not consulted in the name change; and
3. General Harney's career included murderous exploits against Native Americans and African American communities: most significantly, in 1854 he perpetrated the massacre of the inhabitants of a peaceful Sicangu (Brulé Sioux) village at Bluewater Creek, Nebraska, including many women and children, and, twenty years previously (1834), he whipped a female African American slave to death in St. Louis, Missouri.

General Harney never betrayed any concern for either of these terrible deeds. Historical records show that Harney did not take into account the fact that his force would attack a village, Little Thunder's village, inhabited by extended families including grandparents, parents and children — in fact, in his official report, he fails to note the killing of women and children at all and he states: "I have never seen a finer military spirit displayed generally". This absence of remorse was evident two decades earlier: after being found guilty by a coroner's jury in the death of the slave and indicted for murder by a grand jury, General Harney fled St. Louis until,

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months later, the trial was moved to Union, a small town about 50 miles outside St. Louis, and there he was legally acquitted.

In view of these flawed decisions by the Board of Geographic Names in 1906 – ignoring the presence and opinions of the Lakota people about a significant holy place in our Black Hills homeland, illegally taken by the U.S. Government in 1877, and commemorating a man who demonstrated a character unworthy of such an honor in our country – the Elder Advisory Committee requests that the place now called Harney Peak revert to its Lakota name, Hinhan Kaga Paha, or such other name acceptable to the affected communities in the Black Hills region.

With respect,

---

Mrs. Evelyn Charging

---

Mrs. Irene Flute

---

Mr. Virgil Flute

---

Mrs. Maxine Grassrope

---

Mrs. Rose McCauley

---

Mrs. Irene Skunk

---

Mrs. Julia Yellow Robe

---

Mr. Alfred Ziegler

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